

Advisory Group Update

Breast Cancer Research

In order to manage the New Jersey Breast Cancer Research Fund most effectively, the Commission assembled a group of experts and advocates. In addition to helping the Commission set its breast cancer research agenda, the group is active in educating the public to New Jersey breast cancer issues.

In 1998, the New Jersey Breast Cancer Research Fund tax check-off mechanism collected more than \$220,000 which will be used for breast cancer research projects in New Jersey and awarded during the 1999 grant cycle. The Commission applauds the members for their outstanding efforts in raising public support for breast cancer research in New Jersey and deeply thanks the citizens of the state for their generous contributions.

The group is also planning the *Third Annual New Jersey Breast Cancer Symposium* for October 29, 1999.

Joint Nursing & Psychosocial

This advisory group continued its progress by updating, *A Resource Book for Cancer Patients in New Jersey* for 1999. The 74 page booklet is full of helpful information for cancer patients, their families and friends. To date, over 40,000 copies of the resource books have been distributed to patients throughout New Jersey.

The advisory group under the leadership of Co-Chairperson Gary Walco, PhD planned a very successful national conference in October of 1998 on "*Cancer Survivorship Throughout the Life Span.*" Plans are being implemented for continuing this conference to answer the unmet needs of cancer survivorship throughout the lifespan in the coming years.

Cancer Prevention & Control

The Cancer Prevention & Control Advisory group, chaired by Dr. Dona Schneider, Associate Professor, Rutgers University, embarked on a number of interesting projects during the year including the completion of a survey on prostate screening practices by New Jersey primary care physicians and continued efforts aimed at improving the informed consent process for patients enrolling in clinical trials.

NJ Pediatric Hematology Oncology Group

The group has begun to focus its attention on late effects among long term pediatric cancer survivors and problems related to insurance coverage for clinical research trials. In addition, the group is mobilizing the pediatric cancer community to have a stronger voice in dealing with the special needs of children with cancer.

Prostate Cancer Advisory Group

This group will focus on three major areas: the development of research symposium and interactive forums aimed at increasing collaboration; the enhancement of information about prostate clinical trials in New Jersey; and the creation of special funding for prostate cancer research.

Basic Research Advisory Group

The group continues to play a very active role in opening channels of communication and interaction within the scientific community and the public at large.